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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7000
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAHQA/HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEADWD/DA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/CNO WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 3934
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY 0570
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 4226
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 4740
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 3949
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 2241
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 4699
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1569
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 2015
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 8558
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 6044
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0948
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY 5068
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 7022
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 9857
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHMFISS/COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001203

STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD

WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE, SIT ROOM
NSC FOR NEA STAFF

SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA
HQ USAF FOR XXXX
DA WASHDC FOR SASA
JOINT STAFF WASHDC FOR PA
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL FOR POLAD/USIA ADVISOR
COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE FOR PAO/POLAD
COMSIXTHFLT FOR 019

JERUSALEM ALSO ICD
LONDON ALSO FOR HKANONA AND POL
PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

SIPDIS
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

- [1](#)1. Iran
- [1](#)2. Mideast

Key stories in the media:

Most media led with Sen. Barak Obama's address to AIPAC yesterday.
The media characterized it as powerfully "Zionist" and highlighted
his assurances that he would not allow Iran to acquire nuclear arms,

and that Jerusalem would remain the undivided capital of Israel. Media noted that this latter comment drew fire from Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. PM Ehud Olmert was quoted as saying by Ha'aretz that he did not hear the speech himself, but that "from what I heard they [the presidential candidates] had impressive performances and I am very impressed by these declarations. I will speak with all of them by phone." Ha'aretz bannered: "Obama to AIPAC: Committed to Defending Israel from Any Threat"; Maariv bannered Obama's "embrace" of Israel; Yediot highlighted Obama's remark about Israel's security being "sacrosanct"; Israel Hayom bannered: "Obama's Surprise: In Favor of United Jerusalem."

All media reported that PM Ehud Olmert met yesterday with President Bush in Washington, with Iran at the center of the discussion. Ha'aretz and The Jerusalem Post reported that Olmert told reporters that the two leaders also discussed the progress of talks with the Palestinians and the situation in Lebanon. President Bush asked to be briefed on developments with Syria. Leading media quoted Olmert as saying: "Every day that goes by we are making significant steps in dealing with this problem [Iran]. We, with the world under American leadership, are dealing with it in an effort to reach the goal which is to prevent Iran from acquiring [nuclear] arms. I do not think it is appropriate for Iran to know what we are doing." Israel Radio quoted the PM as saying that the question marks hovering the

Iranian nuclear program -- regarding time and determination constraints -- are lessening. Maariv reported that Senator Hillary Clinton and Senator Obama will not meet with Olmert due to conflicting schedules.

Maariv, Israel Radio and The Jerusalem Post reported that today in Tel Aviv Defense Minister Ehud Barak will meet with Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell. Iran will be at the center of their talks. Maariv reported that Mossad